

REMARKS

Amendment summary

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 19, 23, and 26, and to further clarify that the matting agent is present in the claimed paint composition for leather.

Claim 2 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 20, 23, and 26, and to further clarify that the matting agent is present in the claimed paint composition for leather.

Claim 24 is amended to correct its dependency.

Claims 30 and 31 are added, reciting that the matting agent is present in an amount of from 15 to at most 50 parts by weight of the matting agent based on 100 parts by weight of the fluorine-containing resin. Support for these claims is found, e.g., on page 18, lines 13-19 of the present specification.

Claims 19, 20, 23, 25, and 26 are canceled.

No new matter is added by this Amendment, and Applicant respectfully submits that entry of this Amendment is proper.

Furthermore, entry of the amendment at this stage of prosecution is respectfully requested as placing the case in condition for allowance.

Status of the claims

Claims 1, 25-26, and 28-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent Specification No. 04-293982 (hereinafter JP '982). In addition, claims 1, 25-26, and 28-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent Specification No. 02-158675 (hereinafter JP '675). Claims 1, 25-26, and 28-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent

Specification No. 04-31474 (hereinafter JP '474). Further, claims 1, 25, and 28-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent Specification No. 04-285680 (hereinafter JP '680). Moreover, claims 1, 25-26, and 28-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent Specification No. 02-158672 (hereinafter JP '672). Claims 1, 25-26, and 28-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Mabuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,572,871) (hereinafter "Mabuchi").

Claims 19 and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over each of JP '982, JP '675, JP '474, JP '680, JP '672, and Mabuchi.

Finally, claims 1-2, 6-9, 11, 13, 15, 17, and 19-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly not being enabled by the present specification.

Response to claim rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of claim 19 has been incorporated into claim 1 and the subject matter of claim 20 has been incorporated into claim 2, thereby rendering the present § 102 rejections moot. However, in addition, Applicant notes that the present claims recite that the matting agent is present in an amount of at most 50 parts by weight of the matting agent based on 100 parts by weight of the fluorine-containing resin, and that therefore, contrary to the position set forth in the Office Action, the present claims recite the presence of the matting agent.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the presently claimed invention is not anticipated by the cited prior art. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejections.

Response to claim rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 19 and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over each of JP '982, JP '675, JP '474, JP '680, JP '672, and Mabuchi. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are not rendered obvious by the cited prior art. Specifically, Applicant notes that the subject matter of claim 26 has been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 2.

The cited prior art has not been alleged to teach the elements of claim 26, and therefore Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are not rendered obvious by the cited prior art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of these § 103 rejections.

Response to rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-2, 6-9, 11, 13, 15, 17, and 19-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly not being enabled by the present specification. Applicant respectfully submits that the presently claimed invention is enabled by the present specification.

Independent claim 1 recites a paint composition for leather, comprising 100 parts by weight of a fluorine-containing resin, 1 to 50 parts by weight of a silicone oil, and a matting agent. The matting agent is present in an amount of at most 50 parts by weight of the matting agent based on 100 parts by weight of the fluorine-containing resin, and the fluorine-containing resin is a polymer of at least one fluoroolefin monomer or a polymer of at least one fluoroolefin and at least one vinyl monomer. In addition, the fluoroolefin monomer is at least one selected from the group consisting of chlorotrifluoroethylene (CTFE), tetrafluoroethylene (TFE), trifluoroethylene (TrFE), hexafluoropropylene (HFP), vinylidene fluoride (VDF) and vinyl

fluoride (VF). Further, the silicone oil is at least one selected from the group consisting of dimethyl silicone, methylphenyl silicone, methylhydrogen silicone, cyclic polydimethylsiloxane, alkyl-modified silicone, alcohol-modified silicone, amino-modified silicone, fluoroalkyl-modified silicone, chloroalkyl-modified silicone, and other organic modified silicones.

Independent claim 2 recites a paint composition for leather, comprising 100 parts by weight of a curable fluorine-containing resin, a curing agent in the amount of 0.1 to 5 equivalents per 1 equivalent of a curing reactive group in the curable fluorine-containing resin, 1 to 50 parts by weight of a silicone oil, and a matting agent. The matting agent is present in an amount of at most 50 parts by weight of the matting agent based on 100 parts by weight of the curable fluorine-containing resin. In addition, the curable fluorine-containing resin is a polymer of at least one fluoroolefin monomer or a polymer of at least one fluoroolefin and at least one vinyl monomer, and the fluoroolefin monomer is at least one selected from the group consisting of chlorotrifluoroethylene (CTFE), tetrafluoroethylene (TFE), trifluoroethylene (TrFE), hexafluoropropylene (HFP), vinylidene fluoride (VDF) and vinyl fluoride (VF). Further, the silicone oil is at least one selected from the group consisting of dimethyl silicone, methylphenyl silicone, methylhydrogen silicone, cyclic polydimethylsiloxane, alkyl-modified silicone, alcohol-modified silicone, amino-modified silicone, fluoroalkyl-modified silicone, chloroalkyl-modified silicone, and other organic modified silicones.

As described in the present specification, the present invention provides for the maintenance of the feeling and softness essential to leather, the leather may be sufficiently matted, and the leather may be imparted with excellent soil resistance and abrasion resistance (see, e.g., page 2, lines 16-18 of the present specification).

The position set forth in the Office Action was that the claims were not enabled for all fluorine-containing resins and silicone oils. Applicant notes that the claims have been amended to recite the aforementioned specific fluorine-containing resins and silicone oils. It is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art could readily make a paint composition for leather, as claimed in amended claims 1 and 2, based on the corresponding description in the specification and working examples in the absence of undue experimentation.

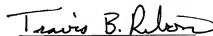
In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are enabled by the present specification. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of this § 112 rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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